Supreme Court Bench in South India

*52. SHRIMATIJAYAPRADANAHATA: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bar Council of Andhra Pradesh observed a protest day on 25th January, 2002, demanding establishment of a Supreme Court Bench in South India; and

(b) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Bar Council of the State of Andhra Pradesh, Advocates in the State observed "Protest Day" without disruption of Court work. In view of the provisions of article 130 of the Constitution of India, no action can be taken by the Government

Bhopal gas tragedy after-effects

*53. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether in 17 years since the Bhopal Gas Tragedy happened it has now been revealed by a Fact-Finding Mission that toxic chemicals from the Union Carbide Factory have spread not only into soil, water and vegetables but even inside breast milk;

(b) whether it is a fact that these toxins are now being passed on from mothers to their children and have shown a dangerous pattern of mental health illness specific to Bhopal survivors; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are taking to check any such incident in future?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Government of India is aware that a Non-Governmental Fact-Finding Mission has very recently gone into the possibility of toxic chemicals from the Union Carbide factory spreading into the soil, water and vegetables. However, no comments can be offered on the report until the same is considered by the technical agencies within the Government.